REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated October 27, 2003.   In the Office Action, the section headings were objected to and claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 USC §103.   By this Amendment, the section headings are amended.   Currently pending claims 1-17 are believed allowable, with claims 1 and 16 being independent claims.

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

The Specification is amended tó conform with 37 CFR 1.77(b).   No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,746 to Knutson et al. ("Knutson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,519,865 to Kondo et al. ("Kondo").

The present invention relates to a system cooperable with a data engine to allow users to interact with a report and refine query data. Application, page 4, lines 9-11.   The system includes a conditional attribute module and a display attribute module. Application, page 7, lines 20-26.   Conditional attributes and display attributes form the resultant report and relations from which information is drawn make up a query. Application, page 2, lines 18-22.   As described in detail in the Application specification, the interface of the present invention allows a user to navigate inside a database even when the user does not have specific and well-defined criteria for searching. Application, page 19, lines 24-26.   This can be very useful in analysis, data mining, investigations, simulations, and other computer assisted activities wherein it is not possible to specify "a priori" a clear set of requirements but the final result is the consequence of a continuous interaction between the user and the machine. Application, page 20, lines 1-6.

Turning to the claims, claim 1 recites, in part, "causing said one of said at least one displayed attribute to change to respective said at least one conditional attribute" and "causing said one of said at least one conditional attribute to change to respective said at least one displayed attribute." As the Examiner points out, Knutson does not teach these claim limitations. Office Action, page 5, lines 9-13.

- 6 -

Nevertheless, the Examiner cites Kondo at column 6, lines 12-33 as
teaching causing the one of said at least one displayed attribute to change
to respective the at least one conditional attribute, and, at column 2, lines
34-48, causing the one of said at least one conditional attribute to change
to respective the at least one displayed attribute. Office Action, page 5,
lines 14-18. It is respectfully submitted, however, that nowhere in Kondo is
there any mention of conditional attributes or displayed attributes. The
Examiner provides no support for the assertion that the cited passages of
Kondo teach the referenced limitations of claim 1.

Kondo appears to disclose a retrieval system which allows a user to
view a retrieval result as a percentage of a total number of files and to
further classify the retrieval result into groups based upon file attributes.
Kondo, Abstract, lines 1-4. Such file attributes may be, for example, file
name, size, type, creator and date. Kondo, column 5, lines 6-11. Moreover,
Kondo does not classify file attributes into two categories of attributes,
further undermining the Examiner's conclusions that Kondo teaches conditional
attributes and displayed attributes.

Given the fact that Kondo does not mention display attributes or
conditional attributes, that Kondo does not classify two categories of file
attributes, and that the Examiner offers no evidence of such teachings beyond
merely citing passages in Kondo containing no mention of the limitations
considered, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not
established that Kondo teaches or suggests changing conditional attributes or
displayed attributes respective to the other attribute as recited in claim 1.
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not obviated by Knutson in
view of Kondo, and is allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2-15 are dependent on and further limit claim 1. Since claim 1
is believed allowable, claims 2-15 are also believed allowable for at least
the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 16 recites, in part, "causing said one of said at least one
displayed attribute to change to respective said at least one conditional
attribute" and "causing said one of said at least one conditional attribute
to change to respective said at least one displayed attribute." These
limitations are also treated by the Examiner under the same reasoning as
claim 1. Office Action, page 10, last paragraph. However, as discussed
above, Kondo does not mention display attributes or conditional attributes,

- 7 -

Patent Application No. 09/728,095

Kondo does not classify two categories of file attributes, and the Examiner offers no evidence of such teachings beyond merely citing passages in Kondo containing no mention of the limitations considered. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is not obviated by Knutson in view of Kondo, and is allowable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the attorney below.

No fee is believed due with this Amendment, however, should a fee be required please charge Deposit Account 50-0510. Should any extensions of time be required, please consider this a petition thereof and charge Deposit Account 50-0510 the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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- 8 -